

Consideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. Prior to entry of this Preliminary Amendment, Claims 1-18 were pending in the application, of which Claims 16-17 are subject to a restriction requirement. In this Preliminary Amendment, original Claims 1-15 and 18 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and new Claims 19-30 have been added. New Claims 19-30 are directed to substantially the same subject matter as canceled Claims 1-15 and 18 and have been added to conform the claims to U.S. practice. It is submitted that these new claims more particularly define the protection for the present invention to which Applicant is entitled. No new matter has been added by any of the new claims or by amendment to the specification and abstract. Following this Preliminary Amendment, Claims 16-17 and 19-30 remain in this application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: February 6, 2003

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APPENDIX

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the Abstract as shown below.

Abstract

[A superconducting cable comprising at least one layer of tapes of superconducting material wound on a support at a prefixed distance so as gaps are formed among the tapes, wherein a non-superconducting material is interposed between adjacent tapes to partially fill said gaps and thereby to minimize the mechanical stress to the superconducting tapes.

Fig. 3]

A superconducting cable includes at least one layer of tapes of superconducting material circumferentially wound side by side on a support at a prefixed distance forming gaps circumferentially among adjacent tapes. Within the superconducting cable, a non-superconducting material is interposed between adjacent tapes to partially fill the gaps.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph that begins on line 11 of page 3 and ends on line 18 of page 3 as follows:

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Preferably, the superconducting cable according to the invention is a cold dielectric cable comprising a phase conductor including at least a first layer of tapes of superconducting material wound on a support at a prefixed distance so as gaps are formed among adjacent tapes, and a return conductor including at least a second layer of tapes of superconducting material, as return conductor wound on a support at a prefixed distance so as gaps are formed among adjacent tapes, wherein the non-superconducting material is [pres??ent] present at least among the tapes of superconducting material of the return conductor.

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